

Floor Statement of Rep. Rush D. Holt
Safe Climate Caucus
April 26, 2013

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to take note of a major milestone in human history.

This past week, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed 400 parts per million. I say a milestone in human history because this level of carbon dioxide has never been seen in human history. In fact, this level has not been achieved for millions of years.

I also say a milestone in human history because it is human activity, the way we produce and use energy, that is responsible for this high concentration.

And it is of historic importance because, as scientists have made clear, this great concentration of greenhouse gas is changing our very climate in ways that are dangerous and costly in dollars and lives.

If we fail to change our ways, fail to change how we generate and use energy, then we will face worse and worse blistering wildfires, withering droughts, flooding events, super-hurricanes.

As the earth goes barreling past 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, let's take action now, this year, this Congress, to address climate change. Let's show that this is a turning point, not just a marker of inaction and environmental degradation.